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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today in celebration of LGBT Pride Month because this year my friends in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community have more to celebrate than ever.

America was founded on the principle that we are all created equal, but for decades the struggle for LGBT equality seemed like a distant dream. Just 45 years ago, in June of 1969, a series of

police actions against the gay community sparked the stonewall riots, one of the most pivotal moments in the fight for LGBT equality.

What began as a moment is now a movement, bringing LGBT Americans together with allies to fight for the rights they deserve but are too often denied. Back then, the movement moved slowly but surely, making inroads neighborhood by neighborhood, city by city. Now I am proud to say the equality movement is moving State by State, picking up steam across the country with no signs of slowing down.

It seems like almost every other month a new State is reaffirming the rights of its gay and lesbian citizens to marry whom they love, regardless of gender. In fact, last November, my home State of Illinois became the 16th State to legalize same-sex marriage. I have to smile when I think that, just 2 months prior, I was officiating symbolic marriages at a festival in Chicago to draw awareness to the cause. What a difference a few months can make.

Currently, gay and lesbian Americans have achieved marriage equality in 18 States and the District of Columbia, and America is stronger for it. Even the Supreme Court has recognized the march toward equality is inevitable, striking down the antiquated Defense of Marriage Act last year.

For too long, DOMA denied same-sex couples the Federal benefits they earned and deserved. Thankfully, the Supreme Court saw this discriminatory law for what it was and tossed it into the ash heap of history. Now LGBT couples are able to file taxes jointly and take advantage of tax breaks that were once limited to heterosexual couples. Now the brave men and women who serve in our Armed Forces can use the veterans benefits they have earned for their same-sex partners. Now binational couples who once lived every day under a cloud of uncertainty are able to sponsor their partners for green

cards and are treated equally under the immigration laws.

What once was one a dream is now our reality. As I said, Madam Speaker, there is more to celebrate this Pride Month than ever before. This weekend, thousands will celebrate how far we have come at the 45th annual Chicago Pride Parade. I will be proud to join the celebration, as I have every year since 1982, and recommit to the work that lies ahead to reach full LGBT equality.

I look forward to one day soon when the Supreme Court extends marriage rights to all citizens once and for all so that no American is denied equality because of the State they live in, a day in which Congress passes the employment nondiscrimination act here in the House so that no American can be fired simply because of whom they love, a day in which LGBT Americans are allowed to visit their loved ones in the hospital and have access to every Federal benefit that is available to all other Americans, a day in which we ensure LGBT youth are protected from harassment and bullying, and a day in which healthy gay and bisexual men are no longer barred from donating lifesaving blood to patients in need.

It is a day that is coming soon; there is no doubt about that. Until then, we must find the courage to keep marching, fighting, and believing that one day America will be a Nation that fulfills its promise of liberty and justice for all.

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will extend the deadline on its decision whether to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the Endangered Species Act in order to further review public comments on the proposal. The announcement comes in response to a letter initiated by members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation outlining the lack of sufficient data used to support the designation and cautioning that moving forward with the listing would constitute a fundamentally ineffective approach to species restoration while severely harming the economy.

The Service initially cited the effects of the white-nose syndrome as the lone basis for its proposed endangered listing. Although the disease is impacting the long-eared bat in areas of 38 States, the Service has acknowledged that the economic activities that would be most affected by the proposed listing have little impact on the population numbers or the decline of the species.

Madam Speaker, this extension will allow for a fresh look at the sufficiency and the accuracy of the data and, with any hope, will allow the Service to consider a better alternative or more effective approach to combat the white-nose syndrome.

CRAFT AN IMMIGRATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, I came to the floor on April 2 to tell my Republican colleagues that they had 3 months to craft an immigration policy before the July Fourth recess. At the time, there was still hope that sensible Republicans would see that their existence as a national party depended on getting the immigration issue resolved. I came back to this well almost every week to remind my Republican colleagues that time was running out. With the Nation gripped by World Cup fever, let me give you a visual representation of my message for the last 3 months.

I gave Republicans a yellow card to put them on warning if they failed to act on immigration. If they failed to act, they would be out of the game. Having met with the President in March, I knew he was prepared to give Republicans time to craft an immigration reform bill, but if they failed to take action, I knew the President intended to use his pen and pad to save families at risk of being deported.

Let's review where we stand 3 months after I gave you the first warning.

A year ago this Friday marks the 1-year anniversary of passage of the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill that passed with 68 votes in the Senate. We had our own group of 8 here in the House crafting a tough but fair immigration compromise, but politics slowed us down and the effort collapsed. Some leaders in the Republican Party, knowing that immigration reform is the only way to achieve border security and workplace verification like E-Verify, legal immigration to feed our economy, and compassion and

justice for how we treat our immigrant neighbors and friends, some in the Republican Party kept trying, and I thank them.

On my side of the aisle, we kept an open mind. When the Speaker of the House said no to the Senate bill, I said, okay, let's find a way to craft a House bill. When Republicans said no to a conference, I said we will find a way to make it work if that is what needs to be done.

Piecemeal bills they said, not a comprehensive bill. I said we will work with you. No direct path to citizenship for most immigrants, well, we didn't like it, but we kept talking. No one tried harder than I did to keep the two parties talking about how to move forward on immigration.

There are Members of the House Republican Conference who need immigration reform politically, others who want it because it restores law and order, and others for reasons deeply grounded in their conservative philosophy. Still others in the Republican Conference are fighting for reform out of a sense of compassion and doing the right thing, as my friend Mr. DIAZ-BALART from Florida has.

But months passed and Republicans turned their backs on their own members, turned their backs on the American people, turned their backs on the business community, on Latino and Asian voters, and on those trying to save the Republican Party from itself.

You know, Madam Speaker, I kept hoping the better angels in the Republican Party would tamp down the irrational and angry angels blocking reform the American people want and deserve.

And then the last straw. As violence and poverty and gangs drive families out of Central America, I see Republican Members of Congress and their allies in talk radio and TV taking advantage of a humanitarian crisis to score cheap political points. In a few hours, the Judiciary Committee, which has done nothing to help move the Republican Party and the Congress forward on immigration, will hold a hearing on what it calls "Administration-Made Disaster at U.S.-Mexico Border."

I gave you the warning 3 months ago and now I have no other choice. You are done. You are done. Leave the field. Too many flagrant offenses and unfair attacks and too little action. You are out. Hit the showers. It is the red card.

First of all, your chance to play a role in how immigration and deportation policies are carried out this year is over. Having been given ample time and space to craft legislation, you failed. The President now has no other choice but to act within existing law to ensure that our deportation policies are humane, that due process rights are protected, that detention conditions are as they should be, and, most importantly, that the people who we are deporting are detriments to our communities, not assets to our families, economy, and society.

I think we all know that you are out when it comes to the White House. By taking no action, even after repeated warnings, you have decided it is up to the Democrats to pick the Supreme Court Justices, conduct foreign policy, and carry out all the functions of the executive branch for a generation, for the next 30 years. The Republican Presidential nominee, whoever he or she may be, will enter the race with an electoral college deficit they cannot make up.

Republicans in the House simply have no answer when it comes to immigration reform, and Republicans have failed America and failed themselves. Madam Speaker, it is now time for the President to act.

A CALL TO ACTION AGAINST BULLYING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Speaker, I rise, unfortunately, today to call attention to a growing epidemic that is plaguing families across our country, and particularly in my district in Staten Island and Brooklyn.

This week the New York Post and the Staten Island Advance mentioned a story of an 11-year-old student, Cyon Williams. Cyon's struggle is with unaddressed bullying, which drove him to contemplate violence and suicide. Think about that, an 11-year-old boy contemplating violence and suicide.

Just a few weeks ago, I met with this bright and very impressive young man along with his mother at their home. I have to tell you it was an absolutely heartbreaking story to see this very mild-mannered, very nice, polite, respectful young man tell me a heartbreaking story of how he is terrified to go to school every day, but yet he is yearning to read and to learn.

□ 1015

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, Cyon is far from alone. There is an example of a tragic suicide of a 15-year-old Tottenville student back in 2012, and that suicide proves all too well that this epidemic is continuing.

In her memory and the memory of countless innocent children victimized by bullying, it is time that we all say enough is enough. We must demand accountability from those charged with addressing bullying in our schools, especially in New York City, where one in five public school students are victimized by abusive peers.

I am calling on all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1199, the Safe Schools Improvement Act. This would require all public schools to establish policies to combat bullying.

We owe it to all of our young adults to demand safe learning environments, where they can grow and develop in a peaceful environment.